MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MAY 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Iraqi forces killed 980 Iranians on 11 May during an Iranian attack on Iraqi positions north of Khorramshahr, according to a military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio. Earlier, a military communique carried by the radio reported that the attack had been repulsed and that the Iranians had been forced to retreat. The communique also said the Iranians suffered "grave losses" on 12 May when Iraqi planes and helicopters raided Iranian positions west of the Karun River and north of Khorramshahr throughout the day. It noted that one Iranian plane was shot down west of the Karun River in a dogfight.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi military commander said Iraqi forces are tightening their control over Khorramshahr, INA reported.

According to an armed forces and Guard Corps communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iranian troops are continuing to besiege Iraqi forces on the Khorramshahr axis. The communique said Iranian forces destroyed an Iraqi outpost northwest of Sha'amcheh and recaptured another outpost southwest of Jofeyr. It noted that over 4,000 sq km of Iranian territory had been liberated during the Jerusalem Operation (bayt al-moqaddas).

GCC Meeting -- The GCC foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on 15 May to discuss developments in the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported citing Kuwaiti newspapers.

Iraq

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran discussed the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war with President Saddam Husayn during a short visit to Iraq, Amman radio reported.

Iran

Revolution Guards dealt a "final blow" to the Peykar group in Shiraz, arresting more than 70 members in a crackdown against 10 hideouts, according to a Guards Corps statement broadcast by Tehran radio.

Lebanon

Fighting erupted in Tripoli when artillery and rocket exchanges took place between rival factions in several areas of the city, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. These exchanges were followed by sniper fire, the radio said. According to Beirut radio, two security committee members were wounded when they came under sniper fire in the Bab at-Tabbanah area of Tripoli.

Egypt

Official talks between the United States and Egypt to advance the autonomy negotiations and surmount the procedural obstacles that are impeding their resumption opened in Cairo, MENA reported. The Egyptian side is led by Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the U.S. side is led by special envoy Richard Fairbanks. In the initial discussions the Egyptian side emphasized the need for Israel to adopt measures to change the political atmosphere and to cease taking measures against the Palestinians so as to motivate them to participate in the negotiations, Cairo radio noted in a later report. The radio said the Egyptian and U.S. sides discussed the procedural matters that are still in dispute between Egypt and Israel, particularly the venue for the tripartite talks. The U.S. and Egyptian sides also dealt with subjects concerning the formation of a Palestinian authority which is to supervise the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel

A book entitled "Two Minutes Over Baghdad" says Israel, South Africa and Taiwan are apparently developing a cruise missile that will be able to deliver a nuclear warhead from Israel to any point in the Arab world and to the southern part of the USSR, HA'ARETZ reported. The two Israeli authors of the book speculate that Israel and South Africa are also developing a neutron bomb.

Libya

Libya has assured Great Britain that it has supplied no arms to Argentina, the LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION reported. The British had contacted Libya after reports that Argentina was seeking to buy more Exocet missiles.

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KARMAL IN USSR FOR BRIDGE COMPLETION CEREMONIES

For Moscow reportage on the visit to the USSR by Babrak Karmal, PDPA Central Committee general secretary and Revolutionary Council chairman, to mark the 12 May opening of the Amu Darya bridge in Termez, including his remarks to a TASS correspondent on Afghan-Soviet relations and his speech at the ceremony, see the South Asia section of the 11 May and subsequent issues of the Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

KESHTMAND SPEAKS IN NEW CITY OF HAIRATAN

LD130636 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0443 GMT 13 May 82

[Text] Kabul, 12 May (BAKHTAR) -- Our people call the magnificent bridge, (on Amu River) built in a short span of time, as the Afghan-Soviet friendship bridge, said Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of PDPA Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA at the ceremony for laying the foundation stone of the new city of Hairatan port after the inauguration of the motor-railway bridge over Oxuz [Amu Darya River].

Keshtmand said that this bridge was really an objective product of the long-standing friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

"This friendship has a shining and long history and has been developing since the first years of the establishment of the Soviet Union as a result of the Great Socialist October Revolution and achievement of independence by Afghanistan".

Recalling the Soviet assistance to Afghanistan Keshtmand said: "The great land of the soviets has rendered tremendous help to our country in the construction of modern factories, reclamation and utilisation of tens of thousand of hectares of arid land, construction of motor roads and transmission lines, in training of national cadres and in many other fields." The construction of the motor-railway bridge on the Oxus River and modern port installations was another example of the all-sided, brotherly and selfless help of the Soviet Union to our country, he added.

He pointed out that the Soviet Union was the greatest importer of Afghanistan's traditional export commodities while it also supplied a number of goods vitally needed by our people such as wheat, sugar, petroleum products, equipment and machine tools.

In the past year, Keshtmand said, the Soviet Union's quota in the imports and exports of our country was respectively 56.5 and 59.8 percent. "Thus it can be said with confidence that all endeavours of our vowed enemies who try to emasculate or retard by creating economic difficulties the process of development of the DRA and realisation of the national and democratic transformations in our country, are doomed to failure and defeat."

In addition to the building of the friendship bridge and the port structures, the laying of the foundation stone of Hairatan new city testifies to the fact that the words of our party are in accord with our actions and are being carried into effect. We are determined to put an end to our economic backwardness and to insure a speedy growth of the productive forces in Afghanistan, Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand pointed out.

"The city whose foundation is being laid today in this glorious and auspicious ceremony by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, will have a prideful position among the future structures of the country and will be a symbol of unbreakable and eternal friendship and brotherhood with the people of the great Soviet Union and a symbol of hope for a new and blossoming future society of Afghanistan," Keshtmand added.

AFP REPORTS MUSLIM GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN KABUL

BK120115 Hong Kong AFP in English 0052 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Islamabad, 11 May (AFP) -- The Afghan interim defence minister's driver and three non-identified persons were killed by Muslim guerrilla fighters in Kabul on May 6, Western diplomatic sources reported here today. Citing reliable Afghan sources, the diplomats said the four were killed in an early morning attack which took place as they were on their way to work. It was not known whether the rebel attack was aimed at interim Defence Minister Major General Abdol Qader.

The diplomats added that at least two members of the ruling Afghan People's Democratic Party (PDPA) were assassinated in Kabul last week.

They reported that heavy fighting also took place near the airport in the Afghan capital on the nights of May 6 and 8, but had no further information on the incidents.

The sources also confirmed reports of four successive explosions on April 30 in a Soviet munitions depot north of Kabul and said they believed they were due to sabotage inside the camp.

The joint Afghan and Soviet Army troop effort during the last months to take control of Paghman, some 20 kms (12 miles) north of Kabul, and the surroundings has apparently progressed, with government troops now moving more freely around the area and reports of a group of rebels encircled and killed.

Another 15 rebels reportedly fell further north in Shamali, in Parwan Province, during a clash on May 5.

Rebel forces are operating openly in Kandahar, the country's second city, which is only defended by some 1,000 Afghan troops at night, while the majority of Soviet troops have camped out in the city's perimeier, the sources said.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON PDPA-GREEK CP TALKS

LD130717 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Here is the joint communique of the PDPA and the Greek Communist Party issued at the conclusion of the Greek Communist Party delegation's visit and [word indistinct] at Kabul Airport by Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization, and Roula Koukoulou, member of the Greek Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, before the delegation left for home:

A Greek Communist Party delegation led by Roula Koukoulou, member of the party Central Committee Politburo, who was accompanied [words indistinct] member of the Greek Communist Party Central Committee, paid a friendly visit to the DRA from 5 to 12 May 1982 at the invitation of the PDPA Central Committee.

During this visit the Greek Communist Party delegation was received by Babarak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. It also met and exchanged views with some members of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo. The Greek Communist Party delegation members visited various party, social and mass organizations and familiarized themselves with the gains of the April Revolution.

The Greek Communist Party delegation inspected industrial, educational and cultural centers and became acquainted with the social life of the people of Afghanistan.

During the meetings between the representatives of the two parties, which took place in an atmosphere of friendly mutual understanding, a broad and all-round unanimity of views was noted on the most important current international issues.

The PDPA and the Greek Communist Party expressed their [words indistinct] for the warmongering and aggressive policy of imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism with the collaboration of Beijing hegemonism. They expressed support for the principled, responsible and peace-loving policy of the USSR and the socialist countries.

Both parties expressed their active and relentless solidarity with all progressive and liberating national and social forces who are struggling for peace, national independence, progress and [words indistinct].

Both parties emphasized the need for security and peace in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean regions and supported the Soviet proposals in this respect.

The PDPA and Greek Communist Party expressed their solidarity with the struggles of the Cypriot people for the just solution of the Cyprus issue in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The Greek Communist Party declared its resolute solidarity with the Afghan people, their revolution and the PDPA in their just struggle against imperialism, reaction and hegemonism. It expressed full support and [words indistinct] for the rational and constructive proposals of the DRA Government for normalizing the situation and securing peace in the region.

The PDPA announced its support for the outstanding and principled role of the Greek Communist Party in the defense of the workers' interests, national independence, democracy and social progress in Greece and of international peace and security.

The two parties expressed their [word indistinct] interest in the continuation of fraternal relations between the (?parties).

According to another report, Roula Koukoulou and his delegation left for home today. They were seen off at the Kabul Airport by Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization; 'Abdol Majid Sarbuland, member of the PDPA Central Committee and deputy prime minister; some members of the party Central Committee International Relations Department; and the deputy chief of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Protocol Department.

MOSCOW REPORT ON ISRAELI ADVISERS 'MALICIOUS'

BK121041 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Official sources in Islamabad have described as malicious and totally concocted a report broadcast by Moscow radio saying that Israeli military advisers have arrived in Pakistan to train what it says are the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. The radio has quoted the Indian weekly BLITZ as the source of the report.

The Islamabad sources said the sole objective of publishing and broadcasting this canard is to malign Pakistan. There is no truth to it whatsoever and it is a totally unfounded and baseless concoction.

HAQ: 'NO POSSIBILITY' OF EARLY ELECTIONS

BK121046 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said he was in search of such persons who could be helpful in bringing about an Islamic democratic system in the country and who would be able to take Pakistan along the path of Islam in the future.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said that there have been a lot of reporting and comments about elections in the newspapers during the last week or so. This subject should now be closed for the time being as there was no possibility of elections in the near future. When the time comes, the issue will be reopened. Before that we must consider whether the results of the elections would be positive or negative. He again made it clear that they would hold elections only when positive results would be ensured.

352 LBS OF HEROIN SEIZED NEAR AFGHAN BORDER

BK120855 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 2 May 82

[Text] Islamabad, 12 May (AFP) -- Pakistani customs authorities have seized 160 kilograms (352 pounds) of pure heroin -- worth an estimated $1.6 billion in the international market -- in the area bordering Afghanistan, it was reported today.

The amount seized was double the largest previous such capture in Pakistan. It was also the largest reported seizure since May 1981, when Iranian authorities said they had confiscated 420 kilograms (924 pounds) of heroin.

The heroin was being transported in a small bus to Baluchistan, southwestern Pakistan, for shipment abroad when Pakistani customs officials raided it. They found refined heroin in specially made cavities in the bus.

The driver of the vehicle, an Afghan national identified as Samar Gul, was arrested, according to the reports.

In February, customs authorities seized 80 kilograms (176 pounds) of refined heroin from the same area. That had been the record haul in Pakistan until the seizure reported today.

An anti-drug campaign during the past 10 months has resulted in the seizure of about 700 kilograms (1,540 pounds) of heroin in Pakistan.

Much of the heroin comes from the northwestern area of Pakistan, in tribal territory beyond the government's administrative control. The government has sought to encourage farmers to cultivate crops other than opium.

BRIEFS

AUSTRALIAN AID FOR REFUGEES -- Australia has announced an additional $250,000 aid to help Pakistan look after the Afghan refugees living in Pakistan. This announcement was made by Australian Foreign Minister Anthony Street in Canberra. [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 10 May 82 BK]

MILITARY COMMUNIQUES REPORT CLASHES WITH IRAQIS

Joint Communique 20

LD121822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 82

[Joint communique No 20 of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of oppressors. Mohammad, the prophet of God, and those who follow him are harsh with the enemy, but merciful among themselves. [Koranic verse]

In continuation of the third phase of the Jerusalem Operations [bayt al-moqaddas] which began under the codename Ya 'Ali ibn Abu Talib, our brave warriors have liberated more than 4,000 square km of the occupied territory of our homeland and succeeded in cleansing an area larger than all the areas liberated during the past 19 months of filth of the aggressive forces.

Our valiant combatants are continuing to besiege enemy forces on the Khuninshahr axis and fight a victorious battle to destroy the invading forces. The criminal enemy, who during the 19 months they occupied territories of Islamic Iran did not refrain from committing all sorts of crimes and from violating the rights of the Muslims and innocent human beings by bombing residential areas and demolishing cities such as Hoveyzeh and Qasr-e Shirin, is going to suffer a shameful defeat at the hands of our brave warriors.

Also in continuation of the third phase of the operations brave sons of the corps of Islam succeeded in liberating the (Shabhabi) post southwest of Jofeyr from the claws of the Saddamist occupiers. This post is now under the full control of our warriors. Our combatants also smashed the (Bobian) post in Iraq northwest of Shalamchen. The forces of blasphemy in this post suffered considerable losses.

In view of the heavy blows dealt to the enemy, several more misled troops of the Iraqi Armed Forces who realized the criminal nature of the Iraqi Ba'this regime, surrendered to the combatants of Islam and asked for asylum.

This morning our ever-vigilant air defense units and the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran combined to down three more aggressive enemy planes. So far, more than 33 aggressive enemy planes have been downed since the start of the Jerusalem operation.

With hope for the Islamic combatants' final victory and liberation of Jerusalem from occupying Zionism. With the assistance of God, victory is near.

[Signed] The Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Joint Staff Communique 902

LD121742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 May 82

[Communique No 902 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The brave battle and the advances of the victorious forces of truth and the dastardly flight and declining fortunes of the aggressive forces of falsehood continue on all the southern and western fronts of the country.

The epic acts undertaken, the steadfastness demonstated and the brave battles fought by the victorious forces of the Islam during the extensive Jerusalem Operation [bayt al-moqaddas] have amazed the world. Our powerful forces rely on the weapon of faith and are resolutely continuing their efforts to expel the aggressive forces of Saddam and crush them.

Their heroic and fighting brothers on the western fronts of the country are firing on enemy tank, infantry and fortified positions. They are neutralizing Saddam's forces and preventing all enemy movement. Artillery fire by the ground forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran leveled at enemy positions in the Meymak Region destroyed a 106mm gun of the Iraqi forces and killed its crew. A number of enemy ammunition dumps were destroyed in the Sumar region and eight of Saddam's soldiers were killed. Exchanges of fire continued in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab as a result of which a number of enemy vehicles were set on fire. In this region the heroic forces of irregular tribal unites infiltrated enemy positions and inflicted casualties. They also captured a number of Iraqi soldiers, including one officer.

As a result of the fire from our artillery units, two 130mm guns, a 106mm gun and an enemy vehicle were destroyed and about 30 of Saddam's forces were killed or wounded in the Qal'eh-ye Sheykhan Region. Also as a result of our forces' fire on enemy concentrations in the (Tutmal), (Biareh) and (Hargineh) regions, 12 ammunition dumps and a number of trenches were destroyed. Also, a gun emplacement was destroyed and all of its crew was killed in (Seyyed Sadeq).

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

SHUSH DISTRICT PEOPLE CAN RETURN HOME 14 MAY

GF121701 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The Shush District Governorate's office, in a contact with the Central News Unit of Ahvaz, for the benefit of honest and chaste people of Shush announces that the citizens of this district can return and occupy their houses beginning Friday [14 May]. With God's grace, they can start reconstruction and a new life in the city of nameless martyrs. (?They can) then attend (?peace) prayers in the presence of responsible personnel of the district and martyr-nuturing people of the area. Dezful Friday Imam Ayatollah Qazi will perform the prayer ceremony in the shrine of Danial-e Nabi at 1700 on the same day.

CORPS NAMES PEYKAR MEMBERS ARRESTED IN SHIRAZ

LD121216 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 82

[Statement issued by the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With God's consent and the help of the lord of the ages, may God speed his auspicious advent, and with the leadership of the imam of the umma, the great Khomeyni, the commander in chief, and with the self-sacrifices of you, the combative umma, the blood-soaked soil of Khuzestan is being cleansed of the filthy presence of the aggressive Ba'thist forces, and our combatants are about to deal the final blows to the feeble enemy. The last centers and dens of iniquity of the minigroups who have waged war against God are disintegrating, thanks to the efforts of the sons of you, the alert umma.

Following the efforts of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, aided by the cooperation of the 36-million strong intelligence organization, the final blow was dealt to the remnants of the Peykar minigroup in Shiraz. This minigroup's center and its members were, with God's blessings, identified and arrested. In this connection, all the centers and supply facilities together with forged documents were discovered and confiscated. More than 70 remaining members of that minigroup were identified and arrested in connection with the discovery of 10 communal dens.

The names of some of the arrested are as follows:

1. 'Ali A'ineh-Varzani, alias Mojtaba, member of the Peykar organization center in Shiraz and in other towns under its jurisdiction, including Bandar 'Abbas: in charge of intelligence supplies sections and student organizations;

2. Hoseyn Rahmani, alias Behruz, member of the Peykar organization center in Shiraz and in other towns under its jurisdiction, including Bandar 'Abbas: in charge of the workers and the provincial section;

3. Mehrangiz Mahmudian, alias Susan, member of the organization center in Shiraz and in other towns under its jurisdiction: in charge of the magazines, publicity and training section;

4. Morteza Sharafi, alias Ahmad Jamali, alias Rasul, member of the former Central Committee of the Peykar organization in Shiraz and in other towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region and member of the main workers group of the organization in Shiraz and the towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region;

5. Mahnaz Mahmudian, alias Nasrin, formerly in charge of students organizations in Shiraz and town under its jurisdiction in the southern region;

6. Gholam Hasan Reza'iyan, alias Yusof, principal member of the former Command Council for the Peykar organization in Shiraz and the towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region, and principal member of the workers section of the Peykar organization in Shiraz and the towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region;

7. Faramborz Najafi, alias Arshad, member of the main workers group of the organization in Shiraz and towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region;

8. Hasan A'ineh-Varzani, the new person in charge of printing;

9. Mokhtar Dashti-Moqaddam, alias Mas'ud, in charge of the organization's finances;

10. [Name indistinct] A'zam Zamani-Pur, alias Fatemeh, in charge of printing and forging documents for the organization in Shiraz and the towns under its jurisdiction in the southern region.

It is hoped that, with God's blessings, those few deceived ones who have not yet returned to the bosom of Islam, will return by going to the authorities.

[Signed] The Public Relations Office of the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

ASSASSINS OF AYATOLLAH DASTGHEYB SENTENCED

GF121745 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] All of the agents responsible for the assassination of martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb have been arrested. According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent quoting the Public Relations Department of the District 9 Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, 15 hypocrites were recognized and arrested in their communal dens in connection with the dastardly assassination of the former Shiraz Friday imam. They were delivered to the Islamic Revolution Court of Shiraz.

The 15 were arrested following the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dastgheyb with the immense efforts of the brother guards and the aid of the hezbollahi umma. Seven of them were sentenced to death and the other eight to long prison terms. The executions have been carried out.

We remind you that martyr Ayatollah Dastgheyb, the imam's former representative in Fars Province and Shiraz Friday imam, was martyred together with 12 of his assistants on 11 December while leaving for the unifying Friday prayer location by a powerful bomb hidden under the veil of a girl hypocrite by the name of Gohar Adab Aqa. The deceived girl was also the victim of the inauspicious [words indistinct].

CLANDESTINE RADIO REPORTS MOJAHEDIN ACTIVITIES

GF121655 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] The correspondent of the Free Voice of Iran reports that at 0700 on (?Monday) in a clash between a mobile unit of the revolution guards on Tehran's [name indistinct] street and combat units of the Mojahedin-e Khalq, all members of the guard's mobile unit were killed. Four guard commanders were among those killed. All arms and equipment of the guards fell into the hands of the Mojahedin-e Khalq and they were able to return safely to their bases.

According to our report, during the early hours of last Thursday a member of the Mojahedin-e Khalq named [name indistinct] carried out a revolutionary execution of members of a mobile unit of Khomeyni's hierling guards carrying one individual cruising the streets.

On Saturday morning the operational unit of (?great crusader Vahid Yahyavi) carried out the revolutionary execution of the head of the Navid real estate agency on the verdict of the people's court. He was spying for the antipopular [word indistinct] of Khomeyni. He had revealed the locations of several Mojahedin bases and caused the martyrdom of a number of Mojahedin-e Khalq members. He was killed at his office, which is located on [name indistinct] street.

CABINET DISCUSSES OIL FACILITIES, RECONSTRUCTION

LD121128 Tehran IRNA in English 1038 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] Tehran, 12 May (IRNA) -- The latest victories of the Islamic forces in the war fronts and social and political issues of the country were discussed in the Cabinet session this morning.

The government spokesman, Ahmad Tavakoli, speaking to IRNA reporter after the session said that one of the issues discussed was the oil installations in the Persian Gulf and the continental shelf. He said that in the past these installations were run by some 230 foreigners, including American and Canadian experts. However, after the victory of the Islamic revolution they are now being run by committed Iranians. It was decided that a number of Cabinet members would visit the installations so that measures would be taken to eliminate problems, Tavakoli said.

As for reconstruction of war striken areas, the government spokesman said that the issue was now being discussed in a session with the presence of the prime minister so that ways of reconstructing these areas could be decided. As for the composition of the council for reconstruction of war striken areas, he said that it would be composed of revolutionary and government organisations and that budget would be provided, half by the government and half by the people.

ALBANIAN TRADE DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

LD121150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 May 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Albanian deputy foreign trade minister who visited our country at the head of a trade-economic delegation, left Tehran this afternoon. Before leaving Tehran, the delegation met with Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owaldi-Mosalman. At this meeting Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman told the Albanian delegation: We regard the Iranian and Albanian nations as close and believe our relations should be very good.

The Albanian deputy foreign trade minister thanked the Iranian nation and government for their warm welcome, and said: Our talks with Commerce Ministry personnel were extremely fruitful, and we achieved positive results. He expressed hope for further successes for the Islamic revolution in connection with the war Iraq has imposed on Iran and said: The Albanian Government and nation, since the start of the war, have declared that Iraq committed naked aggression against Iran. We have declared that this aggression helps international imperialism.

In conclusion, he said: In the talks we held with Iranian officials we reached the conclusion that we would be able to exchange goods between our two countries and establish firmer economic ties. According to the report, the goods to be exchanged between the two countries include traditional, industrial and food products. The final agreement on this will be signed in Tirana by a delegation from our country which will soon leave for Albania.

NVOI: U.S. USING SAUDI ARABIA AGAINST OPEC

TA111423 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 10 May 82

[Unattributed commentary: "The Assault of Oil Monopolies"]

[Summary] During its October session in Geneva OPEC fixed the minimum price of oil at $32 per barrel. Until that time differences over fixing the oil price was a tool in the hands of the oil monopolies to undermine OPEC's unity. Following the OPEC decision, the international oil cartel started a new assault against the oil-exporting countries. The international oil agency, which acts in accordance with U.S. orders, decided to deal an indirect blow to OPEC countries and to force them to retreat from their antimonopolist line. The international oil agency began to implement this plan by creating strategic oil reserves by increasing the oil output of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Thus, America once again showed its neocolonialist face to the oil-exporting countries of OPEC.

At the March session of OPEC in Vienna the situation brought about as a result of the oil monopolies' blackmail was discussed. With the exception of Saudi Arabia, the OPEC countries decided to temporarily lower their oil production by 12 percent as of 1 April. Of course the Saudi regime did not agree with this decision and promised it would unilaterally decrease only 5 percent of its oil production. However, it is hard to believe that the Saudi regime will be able to reduce its oil output even by this insignificant amount, for the Saudi regime's military, political and economic dependence on the United States precludes the adoption of any decision by the Saudis.

The sale of U.S. arms to Saudi Arabia must be viewed within this context. The aim of the Americans is to have Saudi Arabia confront the Islamic Republic and to force it to participate in the imposed war on our country in support of the Iraqi regime. In OPEC, Saudi Arabia continues to be a weapon in the hands of the oil cartel and the United States to exert pressure on the countries of this organization. However, what is certain is that through unity of word and action the oil-exporting countries can terminate the destructive and plundering domination of the oil cartel and world-devouring America.